

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

IN FAVOR OF

A protective tariff, an increase of the duties on coal and iron, and approving of the views of the President of the United States in his late annual message in reference to specific duties.

JANUARY 24, 1859.—Referred to the Committee on Finance, and ordered to be printed.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Whereas the experience of the past and present most fully demonstrate that it is a wise and beneficent policy of the general government which dictates the imposition of duties on such products of foreign nations as come in such direct contact with those of our own country as to injure and prostrate the trade on our own soil and among our own citizens. For want of such aid the artisans and laborers in many departments of trade are compelled to abandon their accustomed pursuits; especially do our own coal and iron interests suffer: Therefore—

Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of Pennsylvania in general assembly met, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to labor for the passage (at the present session) of such an act as will not only tend to increase the revenue by the imposition of duties, but afford ample encouragement to all the interests of the country injured by the productions of the cheap labor of other nations; but more especially to urge an increase of duties on coal and iron, in which so large a portion of our own people are deeply interested.

Resolved, That the views of the President, expressed in his late annual message, in reference to the advantage of definite or specific over *ad valorem* duties, as more uniform, less liable to frauds, and affording the most certain and uniform amount of revenue, meets our hearty approval.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward to each of our senators and members of Congress a copy of the above preamble and resolutions, informing them of their adoption.

W. C. A. LAWRENCE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JNO. CRESSWELL, JR.,

Speaker of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,

Harrisburg, January 20, 1859.

SIR: His excellency Governor William F. Packer has instructed the undersigned to forward the annexed preamble and resolutions, which passed the general assembly on the 19th instant, to the senators and representatives in Congress from this State.

Very respectfully,

WM. M. HIESTER,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.